

Guidelines for Authors

Dear Sir:

As a member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Forensic Sciences* I have enjoyed reviewing a number of the excellent articles offered for publication. Because of my special interest and experience in computer applications in the forensic sciences I have been asked to review an increasing number of articles that use the computer as a tool to handle data collection and analysis. Considering the personal and laboratory computer "explosion" currently well under way I would anticipate a great increase in the number of computer-related articles offered to this and other journals for publication. I would like to suggest some additional "guidelines for authors."

Since scientific publications are our chief medium of communication with other scientists, authors should strive to make each article as rich in "information" as possible. While the main thrust of most articles does not *primarily* address computer support or other "materials and methods" items, adequate detail in addressing such data is of increasing importance.

I hereby suggest that author guidelines be updated to require that additional information be part of accepted articles for the *Journal* as regards description of computer-supported systems. This would include the name and model of the computer or microprocessor used, the bit structure and operating system used, the computer programming language, special application packages, and the amount of main (internal) memory and external (mass) memory used, whether floppy or hard disc storage. Additional optional information that might prove useful to readers (or their knowledgeable associates) would include the storage size of each part of the system including the operating system, programming language, data base both of reference data and case data, and, finally, the size of each new case entry.

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